Fall 2007

# Homecoming 2007

Last week was the 153rd Homecoming Week in the history of St. Stanislaus. The event was celebrated in a variety of ways, both in school and out.

A major part of Homecoming tradition is the Homecoming Court, populated this year entirely by OLA students. The winners this year were Sophomore Kaitlin Collins, nominated by Sophomore Chris Bermond; Senior Caroline Eagan, nominated by Senior Jackson Gilmore; Junior Katie Hector, nominated by Senior Evan Cranford; Senior Jaimie Reisch, nominated by Senior Sam Goggins; and Senior Karli Renz, nominated by Senior Enrique Martinez. The court was presented at the Homecoming Pep Rally on Friday afternoon, as well as the football game and the dance. The Queen, announced at halftime of Friday's football game, was Ms. Kaitlin Collins – a rare crowning of sophomore royalty.

Homecoming events, sponsored by the SSC Student Council, were part of the entire week of Homecoming. Tuesday was College Shirt Day; Wednesday was Superhero Day; Thursday was Class Theme Day; and Friday was Rock-a-Chaw Day. The Student Council also sponsored a five-on-five slaughterball tournament, on Thursday evening, with the championship of the tournament being played during the Homecoming pep rally on Friday afternoon. The proceeds of the tournament entry fees went to Bro. Ronald Talbot's new ministry with the Brothers in Syracuse, New York.

In another fundraising effort, Mr. France raffled off chances to buzz cut his hair at the pep rally, with the proceeds going to Casa de Paz, the agency for street kids that Mr. France started in Brazil.

Of course, the week culminated with Friday's tailgate party on the baseball field, the big game against district power D'Iberville, and the Homecoming Dance on Saturday night at the OLG Community Center, featuring live music by Miles Ladner's and Rock Dubuisson's band.

The whole week was a memorable and fun-filled celebration of St. Stanislaus history and tradition.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY STARTS COINDRE HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

The SSC Campus Ministry Department has established the Coindre Human Rights Initiative (CHRI, pronounced "cry") to develop student body awareness and action plans regarding human rights issues locally and around the world. For those interested in joining a movement aimed at developing a more equitable and stable world community, CHRI is promoting an initiative to raise awareness and to motivate action in our own student body. CHRI generally seeks to instill in students an awareness of their connection and responsibility to the suffering of other people, near and far, in accordance with Christian values and Catholic social teaching. CHRI also seeks to teach that small groups of motivated, organized people can change the world.

The initial focus issue for CHRI's awareness and action initiative is the current human rights crisis in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Over the course of the last two months the voice of peaceful democratic protest has been heard in the small, underdeveloped Southeast Asian country of Myanmar. Known to most by its former name of Burma, this small Buddhist country has been under the rule of a suppressive military government for the last 45 years. Led by sixty-two-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, the only Peace Prize recipient ever to receive the award while imprisoned, the Burmese people have been struggling nonviolently for democratic rule in Burma since 1988.

On August 19th of this year, pro-democracy advocates began peacefully protesting in the streets of Myanmar's largest city, Rangoon (Yangon). After

Continued on page 8

# President Bush Visits Campus On Katrina Anniversary

By: Kaitlyn Stovall

On the 2nd Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, President Bush came once again to the Coast, alongwith the first lady and the governor of Mississippi, to talk about how much progress has been made in these past two years.

On the grounds of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish overlooking the new Bay Bridge, the President gave a speech lauding local leaders and citing how effective and active the state of Mississippi has been in helping its citizens regain footing around Ground Zero.

"So one thing I do want the American people to know is how grateful the people of this part of the country are for their generosity," he said. He also stated a major concern of the people of South Mississippi. "They're worried about bureaucracy... they're worried about the President and other folks in Washington other than the Mississippi officials are going to forget what took place down here. So one of the reasons that Laura and I have come back is to remind people that we haven't forgotten, and won't."

The President also mentioned millions of dollars in recovery funds that the state of Mississippi still has coming to be used.

He closed by praising the resilient spirit of the Bay community, represented particularly by small business owners, such as Kay Goff who opened up a new bookstore not long after the Hurricane.

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# Arts & Literature

## Book Reviews

By: Zack Bouis

"The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak is the story of a young girl named Liesel who grows up in Nazi Germany. Included in this story is her foster father and mother (one an easygoing accordionist and the other an angry, swearing housekeeper), a Jewish boxer that they hide in their basement, a young Aryan boy who dreams of being Jesse Owens, and narration by none other than Death himself. Yes, the story is told from the perspective of Death. As strange as this may sound, the gimmick works incredibly well in the storytelling, allowing for an omniscient perspective while still offering personal reflections and interjections throughout the story.

However, at the very core of "The Book Thief" is a message about the indomitable power of words. Words are so powerful to the protagonist, Liesel, that she steals a forbidden text from a book burning and robs books from the mayor of the city. Later in the story, Liesel discovers the power of words in a different way when she begins to write her own story. The Jewish fugitive that the family hides in the cellar also shows her the power of words when he writes a book as a gift to her. The significance of words is how they are linked to emotion, and this is the greatest strength of the writing in "The Book Thief": the characters are undeniably human; their dilemmas are genuine; and their feelings are as real as we know.

"The Book Thief" is capable of appealing to a wide audience with the setting of World War II, a sympathetic protagonist, dark humor, and an otherworldly protagonist to draw in the New Age/Fantasy crowd; yet, admittedly, this book is not for everyone. It cannot be called a character-driven novel, nor can it be called a plot-driven novel; it simply recounts the events of the life of the young book thief and those which take place around her in her turbulent world. If anything, The Book Thief is an event-driven novel. It might not tie together an overarching storyline, but it tells of individual occurrences that readers find interesting. If you're looking for a book that draws you in and immerses you in it from the moment you pick it up to the moment you finish it, "The Book Thief" isn't it. "The Book Thief" is instead a good novel to pick up occasionally and read a few chapters--each is only a few pages long--and finish it over a long period of time. It's a good book with many surprises and the perfect book for the slow or infrequent reader.

Score: 4/5

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By: Zack Bouis

"The Virgin Suicides" is the debut novel of writer Jeffrey Eugenides whose only other novel, "Middlesex", won him the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2003. "The Virgin Suicides" follows five teenage girls as they commit suicide and the town's reaction to their deaths. It is uniquely told from the perspective of the collective first person as a group of boys who worship and obsess over "the Lisbon girls".

While the novel's plot might be seen as overly dark and depressing Eugenides manages to hit the perfect tone of dark, irreverent humor to move the story along, reminiscent of Kurt Vonnegut. While the narrators' obsession over the Lisbon girls is sometimes humorous and sometimes disturbing, readers learn of the girls and their story, sympathize with them, and in the end deem the Lisbon girls worthy of the obsession. Readers will find themselves doing it--trying to get inside the girls' heads, to discern what they were thinking that would have caused them to kill themselves. Some answers are apparent--dominating parents, a restricting home life, and a suffocating religious upbringing,--but there are more subtle reasons as well, and it is those indiscernible scraps of insight that keep readers entranced throughout the whole of the story.

The novel also brings into stark reality the way in which our society awkwardly views the act of suicide. One of the lines from the novel, said by funeral director Mr. Alton during an interview with the narrators, is an example of this: "It was my first suicide. A young kid too. You couldn't use the same sort of condolences." Then there is the exaggerated reaction by the local school officials who print out pamphlets warning people of suicidal symptoms and hire a school psychologist. The reasoning behind the Lisbon girls' deaths is chalked up to everything from scorned love to genetics.

"The Virgin Suicides" is a wonderful novel that sparks deep thought and introspection in readers, but it is not very approachable. Most people don't know what to make of a novel about the suicide of five teenage girls, and the intense subject matter may scare some away. Also, those who are familiar with the film adaptation of the book have labeled it a "chick-flick", so most men would be loath to read it.

Score: 4/5

## Movie Review

By: Patrick Ferguson

One of the most anticipated movies of this past summer ended up being one of the most disappointing. "Halloween" is the remake of John Carpenter's classic 1980s series. These movies were known as some of the best, scariest series of their day. So, the question is: Where did Rob Zombie [the director of the movie] go wrong? The remake of "Halloween" went deeper into the main character Michael Myers's childhood than it should have. Being a big fan of the original, I thought that the old Michael Myers was just a monster. He was a blank killer without a motive. Rob Zombie simply made Michael into a psychopath, which isn't what Michael truly is. On top of that, Zombie turned "Halloween" into "Gore-Fest 2007", where Michael killed people just to kill them. In the original films, Myers is more interested in finding his sister and just scares people along the way. He would only kill people who prevented him from doing what he wanted to do. The remake was boring at times and very unoriginal. I was surprised this film didn't turned out as I had expected because Rob Zombie's two previous films were very good. You could only really enjoy this film if you didn't like the original or if you just didn't care. The film was okay overall. Rob Zombie tried, but just wasn't able to recreate John Carpenter's original masterpiece.

# Editorial/Opinion

## Opinion

By: Stephen Allard and Zach Bouis

In any high school, the Seniors are always looked up to. For the students who have just started at a new school Seniors mark the place of reward at the end of the long high school journey-- a chance to enjoy the perks of being the oldest and supposedly most mature, after spending so many years struggling as underclassmen and before facing new stresses from new life changes. What a letdown it is for students when they enter their Senior year with great anticipation and discover that high school is essentially the same as it was junior year and every year prior with the same school, same classmates, same schoolwork, and new pressures. So, is there anything different about Senior year? No. Should there be something different? Good question.

In terms of life experiences and age, Seniors are the most mature students at the school. They have at this point most likely received many responsibilities, such as being licensed to drive, and are expected to accept many more responsibilities in the coming years. If the Seniors have proved themselves able to live up to these responsibilities then shouldn't they be trusted with additional responsibilities that would benefit them? Also, wouldn't these responsibilities help prepare them for a world with even more responsibilities?

Another thought is that Seniors should be allowed more freedoms as they prepare for the adult world where the structure and restrictions of high school will no longer apply. Shouldn't Seniors experience this freedom sooner and learn to act responsibly within the context of such freedom? Essentially, the Senior year is one where the students must learn and ready themselves for the life that awaits them only a year away. For some, if they don't learn these lessons now, they may not ever. Then their ignorance will only lead them to make mistakes in college and beyond. The Senior class needs to prepare for the world ahead, and their Senior year of school should help them do it.

The Senior year in high school is the year that is supposed to be filled with grand memor. Unfortunately, Senior privileges here at SSC are sorely lacking. In addition to priority seating at Mass, we Seniors deserve the right to eat lunch where we please and follow a more lax dress code. These suggestions may seem a little unfair to you underclassmen, but I assure you, the day will come when you will be a Senior. The purpose of these privileges is to prepare the students for the adult world in which they will have to make decisions on their own. Hopefully, the class of 2008 will be known for sweeping changes in Senior privileges, rewarding us Seniors with the rights we deserve.

## Editorial

By: Danielle Gargiulo

When I first heard about the Stanislaus football coaches' instructions to the varsity team to ask to be seated in front row of the classroom, I thought it was a joke. My initial thought was that it was a rumor somebody had started for one reason or another, but, after I talked to a few classmates and teachers, I found out that it was completely true. According to Mr. Verlander, in order to encourage cooperation and attention in class, the football coaches asked their players to request seating in the front of the classroom, preferably in the front row. When asked about the policy, Coach Logan, the assistant football coach, said that it was because "we want the boys to be better students, to make good grades, and to not disrupt the class." This seems reasonable, but at what cost to the other students who don't play football? Is Stanislaus placing a premium on the education of the football players, over the other athletes and non-athletes at the school?

Now, obviously, I don't go to Stanislaus, so this new situation doesn't really affect me. I have several classes at SSC, and I've never actually seen a teacher enforce this approach; but, when I talked to several Stanislaus students, they all knew exactly what I was talking about. Among the students and teachers interviewed, there were obviously mixed feelings about the idea. Some teachers said they honored the request and went out of their way to seat the football players at the front of the room; other teachers said that they allowed the students to work it out themselves; and still others said that they ignored the request entirely. Most of the football players interviewed commented that they sat in front of the classrooms even when nobody told them to because they didn't want to get in trouble if a coach saw them in the back. During an interview, sophomore SSC student and football player, Charlie Goff, said, "I take it upon myself to sit up front, because Coach Wittmann told me to." When asked about what they would do if there wasn't an empty seat in the front, many replied that they would tell the person already sitting there to move. All stereotypes aside, I very much doubt that anyone at the school would pull a "Rosa Parks" and refuse to move when a football player is standing over him and telling him to do so. On the other hand, some football players perceived the possibly insulting ramifications of the policy, saying that it was unfair to other students who didn't play football.

I can see the basic idea behind this team policy, and I can see that it was created with the best intentions, but what frustrates me is the negative effects it creates for other students that do not play football for Stanislaus. The request could easily be construed as favoring the football team over the other athletes at SSC who work, practice, and compete just as hard as the football team does. It seems to me that this team rule is sending a message that, if the football players aren't passing and can't play in games, our school pride (or whatever you want to call it) will suffer; but if, say, a tennis player or a soccer player were cut from the team for poor grades, it wouldn't matter nearly as much. Moreover, what about the students that don't play sports at all? Are they not as entitled to the same educational opportunities as somebody who contributes to the school by winning a sports game?

In fact, there is another side to this issue. It seems that this team policy is implying that students who play football can't focus or pay attention unless they have a teacher "babysitting" them while they sit in the front. The suggestion that football players cannot learn from the back of the class is politically incorrect in so many ways, and if I played football, I know that I would find this embarrassing and insulting. If the coaches would stop insinuating that the football team can't learn on their own or without the coddling of adults, perhaps these students, as well as every other student at Stanislaus (regardless of whether or not they are athletes), could grow into the "men of character" that SSC tries to produce. Maybe a new policy should go into effect, one that encourages respect for all students, regardless of the sport they may or may not play and their ability to learn from either the front or the back of the class, wherever they choose to sit.

# School News

## Big Brother/Little Brother

By: Zack Bouis

The SSC Big Brother/ Little Brother Ceremony on September 27th is a proud day for the St. Stanislaus community. The event was well prepared and rehearsed by the attending Sixth, Seventh, and Twelfth graders as they participated in the ceremony. The service included a prayer read in two parts by the Little and Big Brothers, a ceremonial lighting of nine candles by members of the Senior class, a side-by-side procession of the Little Brothers and their mentors, as well as a symbolic presentation of a Brothers of the Sacred Heart medal given to the underclassmen by their Big Brothers.

Remarks on the expectations of the program were given by Little Brother and Seventh grader Ramone Tate who spoke of mutual respect for the older and younger students and also hoped that, as the less experienced of the two parties, the Little Brothers could truly learn from their Big Brothers and finish the year with greater wisdom than before. A speech was also given by Senior Zack Bouis (yours truly) on the similarities between the classes of the Big Brother Little Brother program and included a moral lesson pertaining to the life of SSC's patron, St. Stanislaus Kostka. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Senior Evan Cranford.

Following the ceremony was a reception in the OLG community center in which the Big and Little Brothers, along with their families, were able to commingle and get to know one another over the course of a meal, graciously provided by the Nicaud family.

All in all, the event was a success and the members of the classes of '08, '13, and '14 can all look forward to a good year with each other filled with compassion and fraternity.

## Teacher Spotlight

By: Jae Hyung Kim

The new music department faculty member, Mr. Stephen G. Abadie is from Slidell, Louisiana. He became a teacher after receiving Bachelor degree in Music Education and a Masters in Music Education. To teach individually is the most difficult thing to him because of different levels of students. He said it is just like teaching Geometry, Algebra, and Calculus at the same time in one math class. He can see the men of character of SSC everywhere and this is the one of the reason he likes teaching here. He started playing in the band in 5th grade and has now played music for 15 years. He conducts the Marching band, Concert band, and Percussion and is planning on starting to teach a Jazz class. His goal is to increase band membership.

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By: Bibi De Souza

Mrs. Kay Cerisier is one of the new teachers at OLA this year. She was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and has taught in six different states. This will be her first year teaching at Our Lady Academy and she is teaching pre-algebra. Make sure to welcome Mrs. Cerisier to the OLA family!

## OLA Celebrates Mercy Day

By: Kaitlyn Stovall

On September 24th OLA celebrated Mercy Day, along with 11,000 other Sisters of Mercy worldwide. It was on this day in 1927 that Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, opened the first House of Mercy in Dublin to honor Our Lady of Mercy. Mother McAuley spent all the years of her ministry crusading for social justice and aiding the impoverished, and this day is dedicated to her and all the other Sisters of Mercy, especially the ones that serve at Our Lady Academy: Sister Jackie, Sr. Elisa, and Sr. Anna Louise.

After a morning prayer service, OLA celebrated community through one of Mother McAuley's most prominent symbols. Shortly before her death, Mother McAuley said to a sister, "Be sure you have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone." And so, it is traditional for everyone to have a cup of tea to commemorate the beginning and the service of the Sisters of Mercy.

## Big Sister, Little Sister

By: Lexie Hahn

Big Sister Little Sister has been a tradition at OLA since the beginning of time... or at least before our time. Seniors pick a Freshmen to spiritually adopt for the year. And by spiritually adopt, we mean tell them which movies to watch, show them which classes to take, and, of course, dress them up like loons and parade them around the school to give them their fair share of ridicule.

To bond closely with our sisters this year, we spent a week partaking of sisterly fun. Monday was Mercy Day and we attended the tea party together. On Twin Tuesday, we all wore our hair the same way and loaned our little sisters senior shirts. On Wacky Wednesday, we dressed our little sisters up as "beauty school disasters"; the school smelled like hairspray for the rest of the day. On Togetherness Thursday, we ate breakfast and lunch with our little sisters. On Finale Friday, we had a lovely ceremony in the Church; no one caught anything on fire during the ceremonial candle-lighting.

If we can maintain those standards of sisterly love, we should have a great rest of the year.

# Student Life

## WHAT IS .... BOCCE BALL?

By: Megan Gargiulo

If you happen to find yourself at a neighborhood barbecue, complete with Kool-Aid mustached children running around and sweating and unsupervised Dixie cups lining the tables, then there is a good chance someone around you may be playing a game of bocce ball. If you are reading this article in math class, the chances are, unfortunately, greatly diminished.

But, "What is bocce ball?" you may inquire. Bocce ball is a mix between bowling, shuffleboard, and croquet. Bocce ball was first documented in a painting circa 5200 B.C., and has drifted in and out of popularity since. At one point it was prohibited because commoners playing in the streets kept hitting the unsuspecting knees of the noblemen, but then the noblemen began to play the game as well. Today bocce ball is part of the Special Olympics and is working its way to the Olympics.

To play bocce ball, two teams are made of one, two, or four players each, with eight larger balls (boccia) divided evenly among each team. The starting team throws the smaller ball (the pallina) onto the field. The players take turns throwing their boccia at the pallina, trying to get the closest to the pallina or knock the pallina toward their team's balls. When each team has thrown all the balls, the team who came closest to the pallina is awarded a point. Games are usually played to sixteen points. So, next time you are at a neighborhood gathering, or just around a particularly smooth and green patch of grass, you may want to consider playing bocce ball. Just make sure you don't hit the knees of any passing noblemen.

## What is Your Learning Style?

By: Ansley Blalock

Do you have trouble studying? Do you feel that the way you do study (if at all) is not benefiting you? Maybe you try to study but you just can't seem to find a method that seems to really work for you. These are all problems that many junior high and high school students have. The bottom line is everyone learns differently; some studying methods that work for others won't necessarily work for you. To find what works for you, you must consider what type of learning style best suits you. The three main learning styles are Visual, Auditory, and Tactile/Kinesthetic. Look at the descriptions below, and decide which of the learning styles sounds closest like yours.

Visual learners generally need to see facial expressions and body language, sit in the front of the room to see the teacher, and take detailed notes to most effectively absorb information. Visual learners tend to think in pictures and learn best with graphs, videos, illustrations, and handouts. If you are a visual learner, you should try highlighting in different colors, taking detailed notes in class, studying in a quiet place, and visualizing information as you learn it to help you retain the most material.

Auditory learners tend to learn best through class discussions, lectures, listening to people talk, and talking themselves. Listening to the tone, speed, and pitch of voices aids the Auditory learner in absorbing the information he needs. If you are an auditory learner, it would help you to read your notes out loud. Also, participating in class discussions, making speeches, recording information on a tape, and making up songs, mnemonic devices, and poems about the material will all help you study if you are an auditory learner.

Tactile/Kinesthetic learners learn best by touching, moving, and taking a more "hands-on" approach to studying. Generally, the types of people who learn best this way are not able to sit still and become distracted easily because they need to explore or partake in some kind of activity. Tactile/Kinesthetic learners should take many study breaks, move around frequently, chew gum, use bright colors to highlight and read material, make a poster, or mold clay so that they don't become distracted while they study.

After you find the learning style that best suits you, use some of these study ideas to become a more efficient student. This will benefit you on your current and future academic endeavors.

## Music Reviews: Good Music For People Who Love Bad Music

By: Samantha McLeod

***Sufjan Stevens***

Sufjan Stevens will soothe your soul as he lulls you into the most peaceful sleep you've had in years and fixes all your problems. He's got a softer sound and his lyrics range from faith (but not the preach-y kind) and family, to the serial killer John Wayne Gacy Jr. and the worst Christmas ever, to the saddest, most beautiful death you've ever heard placed to music. Go home and download "Casimir Pulaski Day" and have your life changed, if you're into that kind of thing. Or, if you were intrigued by the mass murderer bit, try "John Wayne Gacy Jr."

***Marley Family***

"Jamaican A Difference Day" has passed, and now you've got that shirt and nothing to do with it. Well, you could always make a sweet Rastafarian-inspired CD and drive (or ride) around wearing that shirt and those fake dreadlocks you bought to, uh, promote awareness. If you don't know where to start on the whole Marley front I'd suggest these songs:

From Bob Marley:
"Sun Is Shining"
"Fuss and Fighting"
"Buffalo Solider"
"Jammin'"
"No Woman, No Cry"
and, of course,
"One Love"

From Damian Marley:
"In 2 Deep"
"Welcome to Jamrock"
"We're Gonna Make It"
(That one just fits.)

From Stephen Marley:
"Hey Baby"
"Mind Control"

These songs are all most excellent Marley tracks that should have first priority on your Rasta-mix.

P.S. Did you know Bob's dad was white? Me, neither. Thanks, Wikipedia.

# News

## Top-ranking House members visit Bay St. Louis

By: Guy Wood

As we were all settling back into school on August 13th, members of the United States House of Representatives were touring the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Representative Gene Taylor, D-Bay St. Louis, invited top-ranking members, such as Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, as well as House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-South Carolina, from the House to the Coast to see what has happened two years after Hurricane Katrina. They were here to gauge progress made and determine what still needs to be done. "This is an issue where Mississippi can lead the way," said Speaker Pelosi about recovery. "This is an issue that can go forward in a bi-partisan way and that's exactly how it should."

After touring Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis, the group culminated their day in a town hall-style meeting in Our Lady of the Gulf's Community Center. The focus of the meeting was on flood insurance reform, specifically House Bill 3121, which would stop insurance companies from denying payment to policy holders, as was overwhelmingly common after Hurricane Katrina.

Local business and community leaders attended the meeting along with House members Pelosi, Clyburn, and Taylor. Hancock Bank's George Schloegel, president and CEO, spoke to those assembled about how its main branch on the beach in Bay St. Louis is re-opening without insurance, simply because "we can't buy it." Retired physician Welsey McFarland told of his successful legal battle with insurance company State Farm, regarding their denial to pay anything on the loss of his home. His successful battle won himself, as well as 600 fellow State Farm policy holders, a full payoff from State Farm.

Along with concerned citizens, several SSC and OLA students who are members of the Junior State of America attended the town hall meeting. OLA Junior Sarah Holland Bacot, who started the organization at OLA, said, "I thought that it was great to see representatives from across the country working together to help change things for us." She added, "Seeing the Speaker of the House and the Majority Whip working for us with Gene Taylor and other representatives and making an effort to speak to us during their time off was awesome." OLA Junior Rachel Courtault commented, "It was a really neat opportunity to see all of the representatives fighting for us. It's good to know the government still cares." SSC Junior Cody LeBlanc added, "I thought it was a good reminder that government isn't some far away concept that doesn't affect us. Rather, Pelosi's visit showed that the government is concerned with the American people, and that the representatives we elect do try to represent their constituents well."

The United States House of Representatives will resume its 110th Congress in September, and we, as well as the rest of those on the Coast, will continue to follow the progress of House Bill 3121.

## Rebuilding and Renovations Coming Soon To SSC

By: Emily Vaughn

It is no secret that St. Stanislaus has been under construction since Hurricane Katrina. The primary focus has been rebuilding the facilities to withstand hurricane force winds. But the new building plans for the school go beyond structural sound. Brother Ronald Hingle and his crew have been working with FEMA since March of 2006 to make St. Stanislaus a more modern and comfortable environment.

The new cafeteria, expecting to break ground November 20th, will hopefully take about a year to build. It will be located on the second story of a new building behind the dorms where the bus barn and basketball courts are. The new dining hall will have two seating rooms, one equipped for 350 students and the other for about 100. The smaller dining room is expected to double as a feature room with a drop down projection screen and a fireplace. The cafeteria, itself, will include a full food court with deli, hot lunch, dessert, salad, and other similar selections. Outside, there will be café tables for when the weather permits. Of course the residents will eat here full time. Brother Ronald also expressed his wishes to be able to rent the facility out for wedding receptions and other community needs. The first story will be have an outdoor amphitheater and a fire pit.

The new plans for the school also include rebuilding the pier. The pier will feature three pavilions. The first one is planned to be a 20 x 20 shower house and fish cleaning station as well as a boathouse for the new catamarans and aquafins. The second landing with be a lifeguard stand with a roped off swimming area. The last landing at the end of the pier will be a fishing platform and boat launch. Also included in the plans for the pier are electrical outlets and spotlights for night fishing as well as new outdoor lighting on the beach.

Other plans include turning the old gym yard into a courtyard with a seating area. And to put the lockers in the downstairs area when the main building undergoes its renovations. Plans for the main building and new dormitory will be draw out sometime in October, where the plans for the new stadium were supposed to being drawing on September 13th.

SSC has much to look forward to in the near future. "We're looking to improve the atmosphere at the school as well as the resident life. We want the students to enjoy coming here, and part of our mission is to improve the spiritual aspect of learning as well. I only hope that the students are as excited as I am about the new plans for the school," says Bro. Ronald.

SSC's New Dining Hall

# Sports

## Football Team Sees Early Success

By: Blaise Gargiulo

This year is looking bright for all Stanislaus athletics, especially football. Many athletes are looking forward to a successful season ahead of them.

Not including playoff games, the football team will play a total of ten games, five at home and five away. So far, the SSC Rockachaws have had a successful season, winning six of their first seven games against Long Beach, Pass High, Hancock, St. Patrick's, Bay High, and St. Martin. The lone lost came against Picayune. These recent victories have the football team's morale going strong, as is made evident by a statement from Varsity Nose Guard, Jourdan Nicaud: "We are going to win state... Yeah boy!"

## Sailing Team News

By: Nicki Reeder

At the start of this school year, St. Stanislaus began their Sailing Team.

The Sailing Team consists of both OLA and SSC students, and is coached by Dan Zwerg. The team practices every Wednesday sailing in the Bay.

Upcoming meets include the 420 Clinic/Fun Regatta in New Orleans on October 27th and 28th and the Great Oaks Regatta also in New Orleans on November 10th and 11th.

Good luck to the Sailing Team, and sail on!

## OLA Cheerleading

By: Danielle Gargiulo

This summer the Varsity Rockachaw Cheerleaders attended a cheerleading camp at the University of Southern Mississippi. There they competed for the Home Palm Routine award, the Traditions award, and the Superior award, all of which they proudly brought home to OLA.

Because of their success, the Varsity Squad was invited to dance and cheer at the Capital One Bowl Pregame in Florida before New Year's Eve in 2007.

Cheerleaders Kelsey Cannon and Jaimie Reisch were chosen as the camp's All Star Cheerleaders because of their dedication to the sport. Reisch comments, "I'm proud because people underestimate us. We work really hard all year round it it pays off!"

OLA Cheer Team Captains

## OLA/SSC Swimming

By: Blaise Gargiulo

After a rough start this season, with changes in coaches and team swimsuits, the OLA/SSC swimteam has finally settled down and started preparing for State.

Coach Patrick Drouilhet and Coach Trochesset are both new to the OLA/SSC teams, but despite previous difficulties, they have successfully started training the team. OLA senior and backstroke swimmer, Samantha McLeod, adds, "There are lots of new swimmers on the team that are going to raise the bar for the swimteam in the future. Oh, and we're going to own at State!"

Both teams have had a promising season this year, winning several meets. SSC senior butterfly swimmer, Sherman Necaise is confident that "the swimteam is going to have a very strong ranking at state this year."

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CHRI

*Continued from page 1*

the Burmese government jailed key student leaders, thousands of Buddhist monks organized peaceful demonstrations to protest the government's harsh tactics and exploitation of the Burmese people and national economy.

The Burmese government's policies have severely damaged the quality of life of the Burmese people, prompting the current protest response. Government corruption has exacerbated already existing poverty. With 25% of Burma's population in abject poverty and the average annual income just over $1,800 (US) per person, Burma is one of the poorest countries in the world. In addition, the Burmese people are victims of some of the worst governmental human rights abuses in the world today.

According to the Center for Defense Information, there are twenty-five countries in the world that use children in armed forces, with an estimated 300,000 child soldiers worldwide. Burma is the leading perpetrator of this practice, forcing an estimated 70,000 children to serve in its armies. In addition, the military controls almost all access to information and harshly limits basic rights of public or even private assembly.

Meanwhile, in eastern Burma, attempts by the government to suppress an independence movement along the country's eastern border region have resulted in the destruction of over 3,000 villages in the last decade. Over half a million displaced people live as refugees in eastern Burma, and over 30,000 more have been displaced by military offensives in the last year. Those who are lucky enough to escape the country generally end up in improvised and impoverished refugee camps along the Burma/Thailand border.

These conditions are made even more desperate by the lack of adequate international developmental assistance to Myanmar. According to the United Nations Development Program, Burma received around $120,000,000 in developmental assistance in 2004, amounting to less than $2.50 for each of its 50 million inhabitants.

This reality of poverty for the majority of Burmese society, coupled with the gross human rights violations carried out by the Burmese military government, set the stage for the massive peaceful demonstrations throughout the country's major cities over the past two months. By the end of August, protests had grown to include young Buddhist monks, students, teachers, pro-democracy advocates, and everyday citizens, numbering in the hundreds of thousands. On September 26, 2007, the Burmese military responded with force. Firing into crowds of demonstrators, security forces killed at least ten civilians. The state police followed with a round of crackdowns, arresting up to 2,000 Buddhist monks and protest leaders, beating monks and other civilians, and destroying Buddhist monasteries. British news sources have put the total numbers of deaths in the low hundreds, while others have claimed totals of up to 2,000. Since the violence of the 26th of September, government police have also carried out late-night raids and in-home searches of suspected supporters of the pro-democracy demonstrations. Arrests have continued, and leaders of the anti-military movement continue to be kept in jail.

World leaders and international organizations, including the United States and United Nations, expressed disbelief and condemnation over the Burmese military's extreme response. Pictures and stories coming out of Rangoon and other cities documented the government's violence and abuse. In response, on September 28th, the Burmese government cut off all Internet access within the country, limiting information for the few foreign media still there. This action, along with changing news cycles, has served to silence much of the media attention to the Burmese crisis. As the flow of information coming out of Burma has slowed, the official conversation among the world's leaders, at least in the public forum, has slackened as well.

In response, CHRI is urging the SSC/OLA communities to voice their opinions in unified support of the Burmese people and their quest for non-violent, democratic governance. Motivated citizens can urge United States government and business to exert international influence and pressure on Myanmar's allies to speak out and act against the oppression. This pressure can be most useful if placed upon China and India.

Both China and India are strong supporters of the Burmese government. India supplies the government of Burma with military aid and logistical support, including the training of Special Forces units; and China provides arms, funding, and diplomatic assistance. The United States provided over $1 billion in military materiel to India in 2006 and has extensive business leaders, trade and diplomatic relationships with China and India. These relationships can be used to exert pressure and influence on these countries to stop supplying the Burmese government with military and financial support until stability is obtained and democratic reforms occur. U.S. business leaders and consumers can also alter their purchasing and business dealings with China and India until they move to support democratic reform in Burma.

CHRI members and other interested students can also write to urge the United States to use its position as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to promote the path of peaceful, non-violent democracy in Burma and generally to stop the flow of arms to the developing world.

CHRI will also urge students to advocate for the freedom of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, the imprisoned leader of the Burmese pro-democracy movement. Mrs. Kyi was elected as the country's Prime Minister in 1990, winning almost 87% of the popular vote. The military nullified the election results and placed Mrs. Kyi under house arrest and imprisonment for twelve of the last eighteen years. The government has offered Kyi freedom in exile several times, but she has refused each time. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her stand against military oppression, and donated the $1.3 million prize money to establish a health and education trust for the Burmese people. Due to her outspoken support of peaceful, non-violent democratic movement under a military dictatorship, Kyi's voice can be a useful catalyst in leading Burma towards a stable, unified state.

Finally, CHRI will seek student support for increased international relief of the refugee crisis in eastern Burma. Over 500,000 people in eastern Burma are without homes, food, water, basic health care and other primary care needs. Refugees International, a human rights group, suggests that support for local international aid groups in Burma can help respond to the needs of internally displaced people within Burma and on the Burma/Thailand border. Up to one third of Burma's refugees receive aid on a regular basis, but aid to effective organizations within Burma need to be increased, and refugee resources must be established along the Burma/Thailand border to aid those refugees who find their way into Thailand.

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi has asked the outside world, "Please use your liberty to promote ours." CHRI wishes to respond, by promoting student awareness and motivating student action. CHRI seeks letters from students, teachers, and all those who want to change the world for the better in a peaceful, positive way. Interested students should listen for announcements and should see Mr. France or Mr. McCall for more information.

As the winners of the 'Name the Vessel' contest, with the winning name of *LeMoyne*, Mrs. Tommi Echelberry's seventh grade science class visited USM's Department of Marine Science at Stennis Space Center on October 10. The students participated in the Christening of the vessel and were treated to a pizza party and a tour of the facility.


# The Rock-N-Moon Tribune

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